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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION

(by phone) November 25, 1958

SUBJECT: Political Gaming

PARTICIPANTS: Dr. Bryce Wood, Social Science Research Council (SSRC)
N. A. Pelcovits, IRA/DXP

COPIES TO: IRA/F: Mr. Johnson
O/FSI: Mr. Hoskins

I called Bryce Wood for information on plans for a political gaming exercise in the field of foreign affairs that the SSRC was reputed to be undertaking. Wood told me that discussions between Pendleton Herring of SSRC and Hans Speier of RAND had led to a decision against an exercise at this time because of cost and complexities of handling.

Instead the SSRC Committee on National Security Policy Research has decided to investigate the training and teaching uses of political gaming. The committee plans to hold a three day conference at West Point in June to develop university courses in the general field of national security policy research. One session -- probably to last a full day -- will be devoted to deliberation on training and teaching uses of political gaming. This session will be conducted by RAND and will consist of a seminar-type discussion and not a demonstration.

Wood is serving as the principal staff planner for the West Point conference and inquired about possible interest in the Department in sending an observer. I told him I would inquire among potentially interested offices, particularly FSI.

IRA/DXP:NAPelcovits:gk

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